## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A vacuum bandage system for use with a wound having a wound surface, the vacuum bandage system comprising:

a wound dressing member made of a generally non-porous material and configured to engage at least a portion of the wound surface of the wound, the wound dressing member having a plurality of holes and a port in communication with the holes via one or more passageways formed in the wound dressing member between the port and the holes and configured to be coupled to a vacuum source,

a wound insert configured for placement within the wound between the wound surface and the wound dressing member, the insert being made of a material which is not porous or foam-like, and

a cover configured for placement over the wound dressing member ~~to engage~~ such that the cover engages healthy skin surrounding the wound in order to seal about the wound and create a sealed environment between the wound and the cover in which a negative pressure can be established.

2. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 1, wherein the generally non-porous material comprises medical-grade silicone.

3. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 1, wherein the wound insert is thin, flexible, and includes a plurality of discrete passageways in communication with the vacuum source.

4. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 3, wherein the passageways are conduits through the wound insert.

5. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 4, wherein the insert includes a top surface, a bottom surface, and a side surface, and wherein the conduits form holes in the side surface, and wherein the insert further includes holes in communication with the conduits and forming holes in one or more of the top and bottom surfaces.

6. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 3, wherein the insert includes a top surface and a bottom surface, and wherein the passageways comprise channels formed in each of the top and bottom surfaces.

7. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 6, wherein the insert further includes holes between the channels and the top and bottom surfaces.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 1, wherein the insert is cylindrical in shape.

10. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 9, wherein the insert is made of approximately 50 durometer silicone.

11. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 9, wherein the insert has a diameter of approximately 0.0925 inch (2.35 mm).

12. (Previously Presented) A wound insert for use with a vacuum bandage having a suction tube coupled to a vacuum source and a wound dressing member coupled to a wound and including a tube port receiving the suction tube, the insert comprising:

a thin, flexible member including a plurality of discrete passageways in communication with the vacuum bandage, the thin, flexible member being spaced from the suction tube, wherein the thin, flexible member includes a top surface, a bottom surface, and side surfaces and the passageways comprise bores through the body extending from one side surface to another and bores through the body extending from the top surface to the bottom surface.

13. (Currently Amended) A wound insert for use with a vacuum bandage including a wound dressing member coupled to a wound, a port of the wound dressing member, and a tube coupled to the port and to a vacuum source, the wound insert being positioned between the vacuum bandage and a wound surface of the wound, the wound insert comprising:

a body made of a generally non-porous, flexible material, wherein the body is cylindrical in shape, wherein a height of the cylindrical body is substantially greater than a diameter of the cylindrical body, and further wherein the body includes either (i) a solid top surface and a solid bottom surface, or (ii) a single passageway along a longitudinal axis of the body which extends between and through a top ~~surface~~ end and a bottom ~~surface~~ end of the body.

14. (Original) The wound insert of claim 13, wherein the body is generally rod- shaped.

15. (Original) The wound insert of claim 13, wherein the body has a diameter of approximately 0.0925 inch (2,35 mm).

16. (Original) The wound insert of claim 13, wherein the body includes discrete passageways.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The wound insert of claim 13, wherein the body is made of a generally non-adhesive material.

20.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 1, wherein the wound insert is configured to prevent an ulcerated portion of the wound from forming a bridge to another ulcerated portion of the wound.

24. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 23, wherein the wound insert includes a rod-shaped wound insert.

25. (Original) The vacuum bandage system of claim 24, wherein the wound insert is made of a generally non-porous material.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The vacuum bandage system of claim 1, wherein the wound insert comprises a plurality of rods that are made of a generally non-porous, flexible material and that are held together by webs that are tearable to permit the rods to be separated from each other.

28. (Previously Presented) The wound insert of claim 13, wherein the body is hollow to define a central conduit there through.

29. (Previously Presented) The wound insert of claim 28, wherein the body further defines passageways formed through the body to communicate with the central conduit.